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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CLOSING

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

February 17, 2003 is a Holiday, and the Federal Government Offices were closed on February 18, 2003 due to snow. Therefore, filing of the papers submitted concurrently herewith is timely.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

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February 19, 2003